

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,
CHENNAI**

Original Application No.233 of 2025(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Margani Bharat Ram, Andhra Pradesh. .. Applicant

Versus

Union of India, Through its Secretary,

MOEF & CC, New Delhi and Others. ...Respondent(s)

REPLAY DATED 22-01-2026
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY ANDHRA PRADESH
FILED BY 2nd RESPONDENT

Date: 23.01.2026



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DATE: 23.01.2026



K.RAVINDRANATH
STANDING COUSNEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF A.P.
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

From

To

D.Phani Bushan Reddy, M.Sc.,
District Mines & Geology Officer,
Rajamahendravaram.

The Director of Mines and Geology,
Ibrahimpattanam.

Lr.No.75/Sand- NGT/2026, Date: 22-01-2026.

Sir,

Sub: Mines and Minerals – O/o District Mines and Geology Officer, RMV-
O.A.No.233/2025 filed by Sri Margani Bharat Ram filed before the
Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai against illegal sand mining
through unauthorized dredging in the Godavari River at Dowleswaram,
Kotilingala and Katheru of Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh –
Detailed report submitted – Reg.

Ref: O.A.No.233/2025 filed by Sri Margani Bharat Ram, Former Member of
Parliament of Rajamahendravaram.

I invite kind attention to the subject and reference cited and submit that the
former Member of Parliament of Rajamahendravaram is raising serious issue
pertaining to illegal sand mining through unauthorized dredging in the Godavari River
at Dowleswaram, Kotilingala and Katheru of Rajamahendravaram in Andhra Pradesh
which is the Constituency represented by him between 2019-24 and filed
O.A.No.233/2025 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai.

The applicant has stated that the illegal dredging is occurring in dangerously
proximity to two key bridges such as the fourth (Gammon) bridge and the Road cum
Rail bridge near Pushkar ghat region of Rajamahendravaram and nearby areas. The
dredging operations are being conducted with the use of heavy machinery, often
during night hours, to evade regulatory mechanisms. The scale and method of
dredging raise serious environmental, ecological, and infrastructural concerns. The
ongoing illegal dredging and sand mining activities constitute multiple legal
violations. The illegal mining activity breaches guidelines laid by the Hon'ble Supreme
Court, including the mandatory requirement of obtaining environmental clearance
before initiating any sand mining activity. The proximity of these activities to critical
infrastructure such as railway and road bridges, is in direct violation of judicial orders
that prohibit mining within a 500- meter defined radius from such structures. It is
also against the guidelines mandated in the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for
Sand Mining 2020.

In this connection, it is submitted that the Government have issued
guidelines under Free Sand Policy, 2024 regarding De-siltation of Reservoirs vide
G.O.MS No: 43, Industries & Commerce (M.III) Dept., dt 08.07.2024 and G.O.MS
No: 49, Industries & Commerce (M.III) Dept., dt 02.09.2024. The Water Resources
Dept., shall take up de-siltation activities in the foreshore areas (water spread area
at FTL) of Reservoirs/Barrages/ tanks. Wherein, De-siltation beyond foreshore areas
of Reservoirs / Barrages / Tanks in river course may also be taken up by the Water
Resources Dept wherever feasible as per the availability of existing staff. In case of
manpower issues additional resources and multi departmental coordination will be
guided by the Joint Collector of the district to facilitate de-siltation by WRD dept., in
compliance with all applicable acts, rules and directions of MoEF&CC, Hon'ble NGT,
Hon'ble HC & Hon'ble SC.

*Sand Mining
A. Pushkar
letter to Standing
Council of NGT, SZ, Chennai*

*hok
22/1/26*

Accordingly, the Water Resource department have identified feasible quantities for de-siltation and accorded permissions categorized as within foreshore area and beyond fore shore area along AGLB (Akhanda Godavari Left bank) of Rajamahendravaram Revenue Division and AGRB (Akhanda Godavari Right bank) of Kovvuru Revenue Division of East Godavari District.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change vide S.O. 1224(E), MoEF & CC Notification, dt.28-03-2020 issued orders regarding **Exemption of certain cases from requirement of Environmental clearance**, wherein "Dredging and de-silting of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, river and canals for the purpose of their maintenance, upkeep and disaster management" also included.

Further, the Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam vide Circular Memo.No. 5123961/Prakasam Barrage /2021, dt.15.11.2023 communicated that the Ministry has directed that all the State Pollution Control Board (SPCBS) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) shall independently monitor the compliance of the SoP / environmental safeguards issued vide Office Memorandum dt 21.08.2023 as the case may be. All the State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) /Pollution Control Committee (PCCs) shall also monitor the aforementioned SOP/ environmental safeguards while monitoring the compliances of the CTE(consent to Establish) and CTO (consent to operate) conditions.

Accordingly, the Water Resource department have obtained Consent to Establishment and Consent to operation orders from AP Pollution Control Board for de-siltation activity in River Godavari in East Godavari District. The details as here under.

S.No	Name of the desiltation point	Mandal	Extent in Ha	CTE & CTO Order Number	CTE Valid From	CTE Valid to	Permitted Quantity (MT)
1	Vadapalli	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	60000
2	Aurangabad-1	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	60000
3	Aurangabad-2	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	30000
4	Errinamma	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	37500
5	Kovvuru	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	15000
6	Dondagunta	Kovvur	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	45000
7	Dowlaiswaram	RJY Rural	4	CTE No.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	82500

8	Dowaliswaram	RJY Rural	4.18	CTE No.6488/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	75000
9	Rajamahendravaram-Kotilingala	RJY Urban	3.7	CTE No.6488/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE/2024-CTO NO.6488/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTO/2024	CTE dt.23.08.2024 CTO dt.02.09.2024	22.08.2025 31.07.2025	90,000
10	Arikirevula-1	Kovvur	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	37500
11	Arikirevula-2	Kovvur	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	15000
12	Katheru	RJY Rural	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	112500
13	Tallapudi	Tallapudi	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	30000
14	Tadipudi	Tallapudi	8	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	45000
15	Prakkilanka	Tallapudi	6	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	22500
16	Vegeswarapuram	Tallapudi	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2024	17.10.2024	16.10.2025	15000
17	Vadapalli-1	Kovvur	9	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	120000
18	Vadapalli-2	Kovvur	4.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	52500
19	Erinamma	Kovvur	4	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	112500
20	Dondagunta-1	Kovvur	3	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	45000
21	Dondagunta-II	Kovvur	3	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	45000
22	Kovvuru	Kovvur	7.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	112500
23	Aurangabad-I	Kovvur	7.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	112500
24	Aurangabad-II	Kovvur	7.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	08.11.2024	07.11.2025	112500
25	Rajamahendravaram-Kotilingala	RJY Urban	9.6	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	13.12.2024	30.11.2025	95000
26	Dowlaiswaram	RJY Rural	11.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	13.12.2024	30.11.2025	172500
27	Dowlaiswaram	RJY Rural	25.3	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/CTE & CTO/2024	13.12.2024	30.11.2025	379500
28	Vadapalli-1	Kovvur	12	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	180000
29	Vadapalli-2	Kovvur	7.54	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	112500
30	Dowlaiswaram	RJY Rural	10	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	150000
31	Kotilingala	RJY Urban	10	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	150000
32	Aurangabad-1	Kovvur	12	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	180000
33	Aurangabad-2	Kovvur	12	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	135000
34	Kovvuru	Kovvur	7.5	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	112000
35	Dondagunta-1	Kovvur	10	6405/APPCCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	150000

36	Dondagunta-2	Kovvur	9	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	135000
37	Erinamma	Kovvur	9.16	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	12.02.2025	31.01.2026	135000
38	Arikirevula-2	Kovvur	7	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	105000
39	Vegeswarapuram	Tallapudi	7	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	105000
40	Thallapudi	Tallapudi	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
41	Prakkilanka	Tallapudi	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
42	Thadipudi	Tallapudi	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
43	Dowlaiswaram-1	RJY Rural	15	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	225000
44	Dowlaiswaram-2	RJY Rural	15	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	225000
45	RJVM – Kotilingala	RJY Urban	15	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	11.05.2025	30.04.2026	225000
46	Katheru	RJY Rural	20	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	225000
47	Vadapalli-1	Kovvur	33	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	495000
48	Vadapalli-2	Kovvur	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
49	Aurangabad-1	Kovvur	20	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	300000
50	Aurangabad-2	Kovvur	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
51	Erinamma	Kovvur	15	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	225000
52	Kovvur	Kovvur	10	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	150000
53	Dondagunta-1	Kovvur	20	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	300000
54	Dondagunta-2	Kovvur	7.5	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	112500
55	Arikirevula-1	Kovvur	4	6405/APPCB/ZO-VSP/KKD/CTE & CTO/2025	15.05.2025	30.04.2026	75000
				Total			7089000

Further, it is submitted that in East Godavari District, for several decades, certain people have been working as members of boatsmen societies and have been dependent on sand-related activities carried out through boats for their livelihood. As per Sand Policy, 2024 guidelines the DLSC East Godavari decided to engage the boatsmen societies for De-siltation activity by manual method through boats. Accordingly, the District Collector & Chairman of DLSC, East Godavari vide Proc.No.1130/ Sand-EG/2024, dt.27.08.2024 issued orders to constitute District Level Empanelment Committee with 14 official members to arrive at modalities of fixing rate for De-siltation Operations and Manner & Method through which de-siltation activities to be carried out.

Subsequently, the applications received from local boatsmen societies were scrutinized by the District Level Empanelment Committee and permissions accorded by the Executive Engineer/ River Conservator, Godavari Head Works division, Dowleswaram. Accordingly, about 119 boatsmen societies in Rajamahendravaram Revenue Division and 25 boatsmen societies in Kovvuru Revenue Division have been

permitted to conduct De-siltation activity at permitted reach during validity period stipulated. The permissions issued by the Water Resources Department have been renewed from time to time. The Details as here under.

Sl. No	Category	Name of De-siltation reach	Ramp Point	No., of Boatsmen Societies permitted
1	Beyond Foreshore area	Katheru	KM 12.700 of AGLB	20
2		Arikirevula	12.400 to 12.600 of AGRB	03
3		Arikirevula-2	14.200 to 14.400 of AGRB	01
4		Vegeswarapuram	AGRB 23.200 to 22.400	01
5		Tallapudi	KM 23.800 to 24.000 of AGRB	02
6		Prakkilanka	KM 25.400 to 25.600 of AGRB	03
7		Tadipudi	KM 27.600 to 27.800 of AGRB	02
8	Within Foreshore area	Dowlaiswaram	KM 3.650 AGLB	25
9		Dowlaiswaram	KM 5.700 AGLB	65
10		Rajamahendravaram Urban (Kotilingala)	KM 11.900 AGLB	09
11		Vadapalli	KM 3.200 to 3.400 of AGRB	02
12		Vadapalli- 2	KM 3.200 to 3.400 of AGRB (dumping at Eluru Canal at KM 12.000 Tallapalem V	02
13		Aurangabad-1	KM 5.800 to 6.000 of AGRB	01
14		Aurangabad-2	KM 6.400 to 6.600 of AGRB	01
15		Erinamma	KM 7.200 to 7.400 of AGRB	02
16		Kovvuru	KM 8.800 to 9.000 of AGRB	03
17		Dondagunta	KM 11.400 to 11.600 of AGRB	02
Total				144

Further, the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide G.O. Ms. No. 66, Ind & Com (Mines-III) Dept, dated 25.10.2024 has issued Modified Free Sand Policy 2024 guidelines in that all sand supply points permitted by DLSC shall be managed by an agency selected by DLSC through a fair and transparent process under the supervision of an in-charge appointed by DLSC. Hence, the boatsmen societies

selected one society among them to act as agency for the permitted Boatsmen societies to manage the sand operations through APSMS.

During the Sand Policy, 2024, about 76 IDs were created in the APSMS for boatsmen society agencies to facilitate the supply of sand and the issuance of transit bills generated through the AP Sand Management System (APSMS) portal. Accordingly, 45,53,645 MT of sand despatched from De-siltation reaches, so far.

Further, while fixing the sand charges the following components were allocated for boatsmen societies for their livelihood.

Source	Description & Charges payable in Rs.	Total payable to boatsmen societies per MT
De-siltation	Excavation - Rs.98.73/-	Rs.195/-
	Transportation through boat - Rs. 66.27/-	
	Unloading at ramp & Loading into vehicles- Rs. 30/-	

*Further, it is submitted that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide office memorandum vide F. No. 3-70/2020-IA.III [141127], dt.12.07.2023 issued clarification on the **exemption from Environmental Clearance** provided vide S.O. 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020 for dredging and desilting of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, river and canals shall be subject to Environmental Safeguards as proposed in the National Framework for Sediment Management issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Previously, bathymetric survey conducted for assessment of siltation in reservoir of Godavari River and recommended for dredging activity.*

Previously, the Water Resource Department Government of AP as carried out the bathy metric survey in January, February, March, 2021 in fore shore area of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage from 0.0 KM to 12.150 KM and estimated the Desilting quantity as **87,35,000 Cum.**, from 3.0 km to 12.15 kms in Godavari River towards Left Bank (AGLB) and Desilting quantity as **77,60,000 Cum.**, from 3.0 km to 12.15 kms in Godavari River towards Right Bank. The present working reaches within Foreshore area also covered under these limits.

In view of the above, the de-siltation activities in River Godavari in East Godavari District are being carried out with the statutory clearances obtained from the concerned authorities, and the disposal of sand is being undertaken in accordance with the Sand Policy, 2024 and the guidelines issued from time to time.

However, as per resolutions made by the District Administration, East Godavari District the District Level and Divisional Level task Force teams were formulated to monitor the sand operations and supply from permitted supply points. During inspections, unauthorized sand activity was noticed in the district in violation of the guidelines issued under the Sand Policy, 2024. Accordingly, action has been initiated against the defaulters as per the rules

in vogue, and penalties have been levied and collected from the defaulters as on 31.12.2025 as here under.

- 221 no., of vehicles identified while transporting sand without valid transit bill and penalty imposed and collected as Rs.66,80,000/-.
- 71 no., of vehicles identified while transporting sand with excess load and the Transport department have been imposed and collected penalty as Rs.31,91,674/-.
- The machinery involved in unauthorized sand activity noticed by the inspecting team and imposed and collected penalty of Rs.1,00,000/- for 2 poelines.

In this connection, it is submitted that the Hon'ble High Court of AP issued common orders on 20.03.2024 in W.P (PIL). No.159 of 2023, W.P (PIL) No.8 of 2024 & Contempt Case No.741 of 2024 and disposed the case issued orders as here under.

*"The official respondents are to ensure that **no mechanized** excavation of sand is allowed on the river bed of the river Godavari, without a proper permission from the conservator of the river Godavari. All or any heavy machinery found on the riverbed without such permission shall be seized and handed over to the river conservator for further action. For this purpose any person **can give a complaint in this regard to the Station House officer of the Police station in whose jurisdiction such machinery is found in the river bed. Upon such complaint being given, the Station House Officer shall immediately take steps to seize the said heavy machinery and hand over the same to the river conservator"***.

Subsequently, during surprise checks conducted by officials of Task force teams, Water Resource and Mines & Geology departments along AGLB and AGRB, the unauthorized dredging activity was noticed in River Godavari in violation of guidelines issued under Sand Policy, 2024. Accordingly, 35 Dredging boats, 27 boats and 3 poelines involved in unauthorized dredging activity were taken into custody. Hence, action has been initiated against the defaulters as per rules in vogue. The details as here under.

Boats involved in unauthorized excavation of sand/Dredging Activity:

Rajamahendravaram Revenue Division

Sl. No.	Date of inspection	No. of Boats identified	Location	Action taken
1	23.11.2024	3 dredging boats	Kotilingala sand ramp	The Divisional Task Force Team, Rajamahendravaram have seized 3 sucking Boats involved in illegal sand excavation at Kotilingala Sand Ramp. FIR filed vide No.635/2024, dt.23.11.2024 at SHO, III Town PS, Rajamahendravaram.
2	09.12.2024	10 Boats	Near Road-cum-Railway bridge	On 09.12.2024, the Water Resource, Mines & Geology, Revenue Departments have conducted Joint Inspection and seized 10 Boats

				involved in unauthorized excavation near Road-cum-Railway bridge. FIR filed vide No.217/2024, dt.09.12.2024 at SHO, II Town PS, Rajamahendravaram.
3	10.12.2024	3 dredging boats	Gaman Bridge, Katheru	Revenue and Task force team, Div TF conducted inspection and seized 3 Dredging boats on 10.12.2024 and filed FIR.
5	24.05.2025	1 Machine	Dowlaiswaram 3.65 Km	<p>Joint inspection at the Desiltation Reach located at 3.65 km in Dowlaiswaram and found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M/s. Jesus Sand & Boatmen All Caste Labour Contract Co-Operative Society, Regd. No. 2422, had engaged one dredging boat and one EX 200 LS (2001-50061) poclain machine (owned by Sri G. Nagaraju, S/o Lovaraju) for desiltation and unloading operations. <p>The officials measured the stocked desilted material, which was found to be 80 MT (Metric Tons). The Sand, along with the machine, was seized and handed over to the Village Revenue Officer (VRO) concerned.</p> <p>The Water Resource Department has filed FIR vide No.68/2025 before the SHO, Dowlaiswaram.</p>
6	08.07.2025	5 dredging boats	Dowlaiswaram 3.65 Km & 5.70 Desiltation Reach Near RWS Water Tanks, Rajamahendravaram	05 Dredging Boats found on 08.07.2025 and the same were handed over to the Water Resource Department for taking further necessary action to file FIR. Subsequently FIR registered vide No.151 of 2025 , dt.14.07.2025
7	16.07.2025	9 Nos. of sucking boats	Katheru desiltation reach & Kotilingala reach	The Joint Inspection team conducted surprise check on 11.07.2025 in Katheru desiltation reach adjacent to Kotilingala reach and seized 9 Nos. sucking boats and filed FIR vide No.331 of 2025 , dt.22.07.2025.
Total		20 dredging boats, 10 boats & 1 Poclain		

Kovvur Revenue Division:

Sl. No.	Date of inspection	No. of Boats identified	Location	Action taken
1	23.11.2024	3 dredging boats	Aurangabad-2 Desiltation Ramp	Found 3 un-authorized Boats involved in sand activity, the same were seized and handed over Water

				Resource Department for further action.
2	09.12.2024	12 Boats	Near Road-cum-Railway bridge	Seized 12 Boats involved in unauthorized excavation near Road-cum-Railway bridge. FIR filed vide No. 321/2024 , dt.09.12.2024 at SHO, Kovvur Town PS.
3	13.12.2024	2 Boats	Near Road-cum-Railway bridge	Seized 2 Boats involved in unauthorized excavation near Road-cum-Railway bridge. FIR filed vide No. 325/2024 , dt.09.12.2024 at SHO, Kovvur Town PS
4	19.02.2025	1 dredging boat	Kovvur Desiltation Reach	AE, Irrigation noticed the boat pertains Sri Mallidi Davidu and subsequently informed to the Tahsildar, ASI task force, mining Dept on 19.02.2025 for necessary action.
5	18.03.2025	1 dredging boat, 1 Proclain, 1 Van	Vegeswarapuram Village	Identified one dredging boat named Jai Durga Bhavani involved in sand activity and about 36 MT of sand heap sourced through Dredging activity. Further, 1 pocline TATA Hitachi 200LC , and van bearing No.AP39WA 2678 with dredging boat engine found at the area involved in unauthorized sand activity and the same seized and filed FIR No. 51/2025 before SHO, Tallapudi.
6	02.06.2025	2 dredging boats	Dondagunta Desiltation Reach	Seized 02 dredging boats pertains to Veronica & Lohith at Dondagunta Desiltation Reach and handed over to AE, Water Resource Department, AGRB Section for further action.
7	11.06.2025	1 dredging Boat 1 Proclain	Dondagunta Revu-2	Seized 1 Dredging Boat pertains to Sri Panthadi Satti pandu and 1 Proclain involved in unauthorized excavation of sand at Dondagunta Revu-2 of Kovvur Mandal and filed FIR vide No. 160/2025 before SHO, Kovvur PS.
8	18.06.2025	7 dredging Boats	Tallapudi & Prakkilanka Villages	Seized 7 Dredging Boats involved in unauthorized excavation of sand at Tallapudi & Prakkilanka Villages of Tallapudi Mandal and filed FIR vide No. 82/2025 before SHO, Tallapudi.
	Total	15 dredging boats, 14 boats, 2 Poclains & 1 Van		
	Grand Total	35 dredging boats, 24 boats & 3 Poclains & 1 Van		

Certain defaulters approached the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh seeking appropriate orders for the release of the dredging boats. The investigation is under process, and in compliance with the orders of the

Hon'ble High Court, the boats were released upon deposit of the prescribed amount.

FIR Details	WP filed by boat owners & Hon'ble Court order	Gist of Hon'ble High Court order	Details of sum deposited in favour of DLSC Account,2024
FIR vide No.160/2025 before SHO, Kovvur PS.	WP No 14270 of 2025 filed by Sri P. Sathibabu	Lr No.Roc.No.550/2025, dt 06.08.2025 from the Tahsildar, Kovvuru requested to implement orders dt 16.07.2025 in WP No.14998 of 2025	Demand draft vide No.001806, dt.11.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-
FIR vide No.82/2025 before SHO, Tallapudi.	Hon'ble High Court orders dt 16-07-2025 in WP No. 14998 of 2025 filed by , PALEPU GANGARAJU, PENUPOTHU CHAMMARAJU, PERABATTULA HARIBABU, DAGANI TRIMURTHULU, MALLADI VENKATESWAH	<p>a. The respondent authorities shall release the subject boat upon each of the petitioner, depositing a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) in favour of the 5th respondent, pending proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>b. The said deposit will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioners, on the subject issue.</p> <p>c. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the 5th respondent that they will not engage themselves in any of the unauthorized dredging activity, pending further investigation on the issue.</p>	<p>1. Demand draft vide No.001805, dt.11.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-; No.001804, dt.11.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/- submitted by Sri Penupothu Chamma Raju and Sri P.Ganga Raju respectively .</p> <p>2. Demand draft vide No.420317, dt.20.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-; No.420318, dt.20.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/- submitted by Sri Malladi Venkatesh and Sri D. Thrimurthulu respectively.</p> <p>Demand draft vide No.420334, dt.04.10.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/- by P.Haribabu.</p>
	Hon'ble High Court orders in WP No. 19065 of 2025 filed by KAVALA SATYANARAYANA MURTHY & V.SATISH	a. The respondent authorities shall release the subject boat upon each of the petitioner, depositing a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in favour of the 4 th respondent (AEE, AGRB), pending proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against	<p>DD No:420338, dt.24.10.2025 for Rs.50,000/-</p> <p>DD No:420337, dt.24.10.2025 for Rs.50,000/-</p>

		<p>the petitioners, on the subject issue duly considering the fact that the petitioners belonged to white card holders and are below poverty line.</p> <p>b. The said deposit will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioners, on the subject issue.</p> <p>c. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the 5th respondent that they will not engage themselves in any of the unauthorized dredging activity, pending further investigation on the issue.</p>	
F.I.R vide No.151 of 2025 at SHO, II town P.S, Rajamahendravaram	Hon'ble High Court orders dt 25-07-2025 in WP No. 19046 of 2025 filed by Sri G.Yesuraju	<p>a. The respondent authorities shall release the subject boat upon each of the petitioner, depositing a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) in favour of the 5th respondent, pending proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>b. The said deposit will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>c. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the 5th respondent that they will not engage themselves in any of the unauthorized dredging activity, pending further investigation on the issue.</p>	Demand draft vide No.054345, dt.28.07.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-
FIR No.331/2025 SHO, III town P.S, Rajamahendravaram	Out of 09 seized boats, Sri R. Anil Kumar & 02 others having 06 boats and have filed writ petition vide no. 20144 /2025	<p>a. The respondent authorities shall release the subject boat upon each of the petitioner, depositing a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) in favour of the 5th respondent, pending</p>	Demand draft vide No.627854, dt.05.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-; No.627853, dt.05.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-; No.627855,

		<p>proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>b. The said deposit will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>c. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the 5th respondent that they will not engage themselves in any of the unauthorized dredging activity, pending further investigation on the issue.</p>	dt.05.08.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-
FIR No.468/2025 SHO, III town P.S, Rajamahendravaram	have filed writ petition vide no. 29065 /2025	<p>a. The respondent authorities shall release the subject boats of the petitioner, depositing a sum of Rs.1,50,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) in favour of the 5th respondent, pending proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>b. The said deposit will be subject to the outcome of the proceedings that may have already been initiated or that are contemplated against the petitioner, on the subject issue.</p> <p>c. The petitioner shall also furnish an undertaking to the 5th respondent that they will not engage themselves in any of the unauthorized dredging activity, pending further investigation on the issue.</p>	Demand draft vide No.485514, dt.04.11.2025 for Rs.1,50,000/-

The District Mines & Geology Officer & Member-Convener, DLSC, Rajamahendravaram vide Notice No.1231/Sand-Boats/2024, Dated: 22.02.2025 issued instructions to the contractor agencies for sand supply points in East Godavari that "The agencies should not overload the vehicles in terms of height and capacity permitted by the transport department" and " The sand loaded vehicles should be **covered with tarpaulin** to avoid dust pollution and for safety of travellers".

Further, The District Mines & Geology Officer & Member-Convener, DLSC, Rajamahendravaram vide Notice No.1995/APSMS/2024-2 Dated: 23.06.2025 instructed sand supply contractor agencies of Desiltation Reaches in East Godavari District to comply the conditions as hereunder

- In the event of any sand spillage along the transportation route, the agency shall be responsible for clearing the spilled sand from the road by the evening of the same day to avoid public inconvenience and ensure road safety. Furthermore, the agency shall take photographs showing the condition of the site before and after the clearance of the spilled sand and submit them to the concerned District Authority as proof of compliance. Failure to clear the spilled sand within the stipulated time will result in serious action being initiated against the agency by the District Authority.
- The agency shall ensure that a bill generated through APSMS is duly issued prior to the dispatch of every sand vehicle from the ramp. It is further informed that if any sand vehicle dispatched from the ramp is found transporting sand without a valid bill, immediate action shall be initiated against the concerned agency as per the APMMC Rules and guidelines in force.
- The agency shall not load sand into vehicles in excess of the quantity specified in the online transit slip or the vehicle's permitted capacity. Such overloading may result in spillage on roads, leading to inconvenience and safety hazards for the public. In case of any violation, the agency shall be held responsible for the excess loading of sand.
- The agency shall ensure that the sand-loaded vehicle is properly covered with tarpaulin before dispatch from the ramp. Failure to do so will render the agency responsible for dispatching a vehicle without tarpaulin.

Subsequently, the District Mines & Geology Officer & Member-Convener, DLSC, Rajamahendravaram vide Notice No. 1995/APSMS/2024 Dated: 25.11.2025 again instructed sand supply contractor agencies in East Godavari District to comply the conditions.

Accordingly, the contractor agencies made arrangements to clear the sand accumulated on road nearby supply points from time to time.

In view of the above, the District Level Sand Committee, East Godavari District, has taken all possible steps to regulate the supply of sand and to ensure the effective implementation of the guidelines issued under the Sand Policy, 2024.

This is submitted for kind perusal and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


District Mines & Geology Officer,
Rajamahendravaram

Item No.04:-

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.233 of 2025(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Margani Bharat Ram,
Andhra Pradesh.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India,
Through its Secretary,
MOEF & CC, New Delhi and Ors.



...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 20.11.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Mr. Nagesh Sharma represented
Mr. K. Sravan Kumar.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranath for R2 to R4.

ORDER

1. The above Original Application is filed complaining of sand mining in Rajahmahendravaram.

2. Though the applicant has not identified the individuals engaged in the mining activity, the official respondents concerned are directed to conduct an inspection and submit a detailed report.

3. If it is found that any sand mining activity is being carried out in violation of the EIA Notification or the sand mining policy, the concerned departments are directed to take appropriate action against the violators.

4. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal as well as privately.

5. Mr. K. Ravindranath, the learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Respondents No.2 to 4.

6. Post the matter on **27.01.2026**. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM